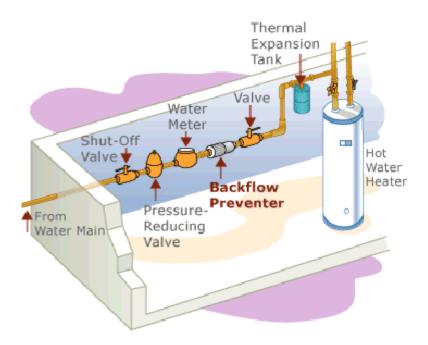
Not having a THERMAL EXPANSION TANK on your water heater <u>could cause water leaks</u> in your plumbing system.

Every building on the Town of Warrenton's water system should have a **thermal expansion tank** on their water heater. Not having a thermal expansion tank could cause expensive water leaks in the building's plumbing system as well as underground leaks.

The thermal expansion tank needs to be sized properly, according to the size of the water heater, the temperature setting on the water heater and the static pressure of the plumbing system on the customer side of the pressure reducing valve.



What is Thermal Expansion?

In a nut shell, when water is heated it expands.



Effects of Thermal Expansion on Gas-Fired Water Heaters.

When dangerous pressures build up in a water heater, internal parts may fail such as the internal exhaust flue on a gas-fired water heater. This flue runs up the middle of a water heater. If an exhaust flue way collapses, it can lead to the potential build up and release of toxic gases into the living areas of a building.



Without a thermal expansion tank, excessive pressure may build up in the water system and cause leaks at commodes, sink fixtures as well as in the interior and underground piping system. Water may also discharge from the temperature and pressure relief valve that is located at the side of the water heater due to thermal expansion.

For questions concerning thermal expansion or any water related topics, please contact Larry K. Oliver, Utilities Technician at (540) 347-1561 or loliver@warrentonva.gov